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# SUCCESS STORY

## A Nourishing Program Improves Young Lives in India

**A USAID program is providing nourishment to orphans and vulnerable children**



Community Health Education Society (CHES)

*Vinodini, one of the many children infected with HIV, has benefited from USAID's AIDS Prevention and Control Project.*

***In India, USAID helps to nourish children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.***

Impoverishment, hunger, and malnutrition are common problems faced by millions of children in India. These problems can affect a child's health as well as a child's ability to attend school and thrive academically. It is estimated that there are more than 7,000 children living with HIV in the state of Tamil Nadu. Vinodini is just one example of the many children who not only struggle to have their basic needs for healthy development met, but also their specific nutritional needs as HIV-positive children.

Vinodini is a 12-year-old girl who lost both of her parents to AIDS. HIV-positive herself, she now lives with her grandmother and two sisters. In the past, Vinodini's grandmother had not been able to work regularly and struggled to provide food for her granddaughters and herself. But then, the Community Health Education Society (CHES), a partner agency in the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID's) AIDS Prevention and Control Project (APAC), came to the family's aid.

On a visit to the family's home, CHES staff members recognized that Vinodini's grandmother had the necessary skills to run a small-scale business. With seed funding from CHES, she was able to start a neighborhood clothing business, earning an income that covers the family's entire monthly food costs.

In partnership with APAC, the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society has developed an "OVC Trust" to address the basic needs of children in the state who are living with HIV. The Trust will restore the childhoods of thousands of children in the state through its support of education, nutrition, economic strengthening, health care, protection, and psychosocial care.

Thanks to the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and USAID, Vinodini is well nourished and more able to face the challenges of everyday life.